

Remarks

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action mailed September 28, 2006, (hereinafter “the Office Action”) objected to the amendment made in line 9 of claim 7 as being misplaced. Claim 7 has now been amended to delete “each wheel of” from line 9 and adding that phrase in line 10 in accordance with the similar usage in line 16.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action rejected claims 7, 9 and 10 as obvious over Fackrell et al, 6,609,356 in view of Lamela et al, 6,663,114 and Chen et al, 4,694,639. Lamela et al is cited as having a first hydraulic motor mounted on the right side of the frame connected to a first hydraulic pump and to each wheel of the first pair of ground wheels and a second hydraulic motor mounted on the left side of the frame connected to a second hydraulic pump, operated independently, and connected to each wheel of the second pair of ground wheels. However, Lamela et al is directed to a manual suspension locking of a skid steer vehicle having a sprung suspension employed on vehicles like front end loaders and backhoes. (Lamela Col. 1, lines 1-15.) The vehicle described in Lamela et al is outside the field of applicant’s endeavor, which is the design of mowing machines and, in particular, a remotely controlled mowing machine. It is respectfully submitted that Lamela et al should not be considered pertinent to the present application. Claim 7 should, thereafter, be allowed.

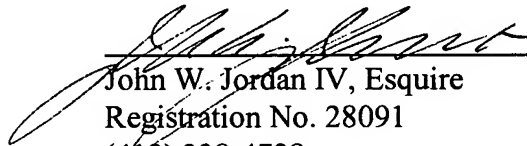
Paragraph 4 of the Office Action also cited Chen et al for disclosing a remotely controlled mower and teaches that it is known to use radio controls for controlling “the clutch and engine of a lawn mower (see Column 6, lines 33-99).” However, the clutch referred to in Chen et al is a clutch, which is not shown, for transferring rotary power from the engine to the drive wheel 3. (Col. 2, lines 49-54.) Chen et al does not describe a clutch connecting an engine with a cutting blade. It

is submitted that Chen et al thus does not make obvious the device claimed in claim 9 of the present application, which claims "A mowing device according to claim 7 further comprising: a remotely controlled internal combustion engine mounted on said deck and a remotely controlled clutch connecting said remotely controlled internal combustion engine to said vegetation cutting blade." Therefore, claim 9, and also claim 10, which is dependent from claim 9, should be allowed.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action rejected claim 8 as unpatentable over Fackrell et al, Lamela et al, and Chen et al as applied to claim 7 and in further view of Cartner, 4,445,312. Claim 8 is dependent from claim 7. Therefore, if claim 7 is allowed, claim 8 should be allowed as well.

For the reasons discussed above, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 7-10 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that those claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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